

# Matti Herrera Bower

## First Woman Mayor

During last year's race for Miami Beach mayor, the so-called political experts said Matti Herrera Bower was a little spacey, a bit unpolished and didn't have a chance against the big money of former Commissioner Simon Cruz. They were all wrong. After knocking Cruz silly over his attempted \$180 million bailout of Mount Sinai Medical Center, Bower surfed a grassroots wave straight into the mayor's office, proving that money and string-pulling by establishment bigwigs isn't everything. She might be a grandma, but Bower isn't taking any crap from the Beach's backroom brokers.

Miami Beach's first female and the first Cuban-American mayor, 69-year-old Bower is having the time of her life at the city's helm, and she's keeping her promises to be the people's mayor.

Once a month, she hops behind the wheel of her big, old white Cadillac and drives her office out to the people as part of her Mayor on the Move initiative — if residents can't make it to City Hall, she goes to see them.

Bower also formed the Mayor's Gay Business Development Ad Hoc Committee earlier this year to help strengthen the Miami Beach gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community, which is being lost to other cities such as Fort Lauderdale.

Now, the building department had better watch out: Most recently, Bower formed the Transparency, Reliability and Accountability Committee to shine a light in the dark nooks and crannies of City Hall where crooks operate.

Bower — who became active in the community more than 30 years ago as, among other things, president of the Feinberg Fisher Elementary School, Nautilus Junior High and Miami Beach Senior High School Parent Teachers associations — spent eight years on the City Commission before becoming mayor.

Having harnessed the power of the people, Bower truly is a force in Beach politics.



 <a href="#"><u>Armando Aguilar</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Lin Arison</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Ricky Arriola</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Adrienne Arsht</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Marleine Bastien</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Peter Bober</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Matti Herrera Bower</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Norman Braman</u></a>
 <a href="#"><u>George M. Burgess</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Charles W. Burkett</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Donald Carlin</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Charlie Cinnamon</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Mary Conway</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>David Custin</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Alex Daoud</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Brett David</u></a>
 <a href="#"><u>Jim DeFede</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Frank Del Vecchio</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Edward DeValle II</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Lucia Dougherty &amp; Carter McDowell</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Peter Ehrlich</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Gary Farmer</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Jorge Fernandez &amp; Julie O. Bru</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Matthew B. Gorson</u></a>
 <a href="#"><u>Andi Greenwald</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Julie Greiner</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Alan Lieberman</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Keith London</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Martin Z. Margulies</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Keith Menin</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Dana Nottingham</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Tommy Pooch &amp; Alan Roth</u></a>
 <a href="#"><u>Gerald Posner</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Manuel Prieguez Jr.</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Louis Puig</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Terry Riley</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Luiz Rodrigues</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Blanka A. Rosenstiel</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Hiram Ruiz</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Joe Sanchez</u></a>
 <a href="#"><u>Don Slesnick</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Nicola Siervo</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Javier Souto</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Ike Starkman</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Michael Stern</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>David Sugarman</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Michael Tilson Thomas</u></a>	 <a href="#"><u>Gillian Thomas</u></a>

### 2008 SunPost 50 Credits

Editor: Rachael Lee Coleman

Writers: Cynthia Archbold, Angie Hargot, Lee Molloy and Ben Torter Copy Editors: Mary Louise English and Ken Rivadeneira

Web Editor: Angie Hargot

Illustrator: Christian Meesey

Page Designer: Michael Menchero



John Timoney Larry Wilker



Special Honors: George Berlin